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Wills on Circumstantial Evidence. Fifth Edition. By Sir Alfred Wills, Knt. American notes by Professors George E. Beers and Arthur L. Corbin of the Faculty of the Yale Law School. The Boston Book Company, Boston, Mass., 1905. Sheep, pages, 448. (American Notes, 239.)

Wills on Circumstantial Evidence is an exposition of the fascinating parts of the criminal law. Many of the cases digested and used for illustration remind one rather of the stories of Poe and Doyle than of a technical work—so much the more interesting because of their truth. Of course these cases are the pick of a century—the confession without guilt, or the case minutely perfect made out by the prosecution only to be controverted by an unimpeachable alibi are phenomena to be observed not more than once in the life of any man—but they make one forget the daily routine of pettiness, of sordidness, and of filth, which gains for the practice of criminal law so universal disfavor and which repels most of the greater lawyers. Without regard to its technical merits, but merely for the human interest of the cases, the book is well worth reading.

The American notes, though containing fewer pages, are in much finer print than the text and since the digests of cases are more brief, they actually cover rather more ground. Some of the American cases are given in detail and are of great interest, especially those like that of the Chicago Anarchists, Molineaux and Prof. Webster. No table of cases, however, is cited which is rather detrimental, we think, to the general utility. The present writer sought in vain for the case of Martin Thorne and H. H. Holmes in the American notes, though possibly some mention is made of them, which he overlooked. But both for analogy and reference the book, and especially the American notes, ought, to those who have the opportunity and inclination to undertake the great cases of the criminal law, where usually the circumstantial is the only evidence obtainable, to be of great value.

G. S. A.

Jurisprudence, Law, and Ethics. By Edgar B. Kinkead, M. A., Professor of Law, Ohio State University. The Banks Law Publishing Co., New York, 1905. Buckram, pages, 357.

This work consists of a collection of lectures prepared for the class room. It is an introduction of primary and fundamental principles. They are set out tersely, almost epigrammatically, leaving the reader plenty of opportunity for individual speculation. The author does not attempt to treat the subject of jurisprudence and ethics from any original standpoint, but is content in introducing us to what the great minds of continental Europe, England and America have thought, quoting freely from their works. The science of law, its fundamental basis and its relation to other sciences is displayed, and its objects set forth. In part II the professional relation of the lawyer to the bench, his fellow members of the bar and his client is discussed. Lawyers as well as students